



**May 1, 2024**

TO: Human Services Policy Conference Committee

FROM: Ikram Koliso, Interim Director, Office of Financial Empowerment

SUBJECT: City of Saint Paul Letter of Support – Phase-out of Subminimum Wage

Dear Esteemed Human Services Policy Conference Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul's Office of Financial Empowerment, we write to express our strong support to ensure disability wage protections by phasing out the use of subminimum wage, particularly through the prohibition of Section 14(c) certificates.

The statistics presented by the MCDWJ are alarming: more than 3200 people with disabilities in Minnesota legally earn subminimum wages, with our state ranking highest per capita in employing such individuals. The average wage for these workers is a mere \$4.15 per hour, an injustice that cannot be overlooked.

We commend the efforts of the Minnesota Task Force on Eliminating Subminimum Wages in developing a robust transition plan to ensure a seamless shift towards equitable wages for individuals with disabilities. By investing in individualized, integrated employment programs, we take meaningful steps towards realizing a more just and inclusive society.

The City of Saint Paul's Office of Financial Empowerment supports phasing out the use of Section 14(c) certificates by 2028, ensuring that all workers with disabilities receive at least the minimum wage for their labor. Together, let us uphold Minnesota's commitment to integration, inclusion, and justice for all its residents.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to this crucial cause. We look forward to continued collaboration in pursuit of a more equitable future for individuals with disabilities.

Sincerely,  
*Ikram Koliso*

Ikram Koliso  
Interim Director, Office of Financial Empowerment